

ST. ELIZABETH'S PARISH

Requirements for a Quinceañera Celebration

Date: ___/___/___/
Time: ___:00 ___M.

Congratulations on your upcoming Quinceañera Celebration, we are pleased that you want to celebrate it, since it is an important day that validates life and gives thanks to God for it. Therefore, we want to help you plan for it with the following information:

A SIMPLE CEREMONY:

We gladly have any family celebrate the 15th birthday of their daughter without attendants, at any of the regular Sunday parish masses. There will be a special place for the girl and the family to sit. To arrange for this a family must speak with the parish priest in advance. The donation is whatever you wish to give. The girl will be asked to attend one of the youth parish groups.

A PRIVATE OR GROUP QUINCEAÑERA:

Requirements:

1. Family must be registered members of our parish.
2. Arrangements should be made at least six months before the date wanted.
3. The quinceañera should have already received her First Communion and should bring in the Certificate of 1st communion. In case she has not done it, she must attend the R.C.I.A. program, however, it will take more time.
4. The celebration (Liturgy of the Word) is done on any Saturday of the month at 11:00 a.m. or 1:00 p.m. We encourage to ALWAYS have one celebration with a maximum of two quinceañeras.
5. There is also a liturgical rehearsal on the Thursday or Friday evening before the celebration in the Church at 6:30 p.m.. The quinceañera, parents, godparents and all participants must attend.
6. The Sacrament of Reconciliation must be received by the quinceañera, and participants the Saturday prior to the Celebration from 3:30 to 5:00 p.m. We ask that everyone be punctual for all these instructional classes and rehearsal. Everybody should be in front of the Church 15 minutes before the time of the ceremony; this is to insure that it will begin on time. The celebration may begin with those that are present.
7. The quinceañera must attend the parish youth group during the time of preparation, that is for 6 months. If this requirement is not fulfilled, the ceremony may be cancelled by the church.

The Ceremony:

1. We urge the family to keep the whole celebration simple and not to go to great expenses.
2. Quinceañera and participants must wear MODEST attire (no strapless gowns).
3. Family members are asked to choose and read the readings (they will be provided in the rehearsal.)
4. The use of rice, rose petals or other items ARE NOT ALLOWED to be thrown either outside or inside the church.
5. After the profession of Faith, the godparents may present the gifts to the quinceañera (Biblia, anillo, rosario, corona.)

Music:

If the family wants to have music during the Mass, they may do so. It would be religious music, appropriate for Mass. They themselves must make the arrangements either with an acquaintance or from the list of musicians that the parish can provide. The cost of the choir is covered by the family.

Photographers:

They must be discreet. They cannot in anyway interfere with the ceremony. They cannot enter the sanctuary (go up the steps). There will be 30 minutes after mass for formal pictures, unless you come late. The same applies for the videos. No bright lights.

Flowers and Decorations:

If the family wishes to bring in flowers, they may do so. The church provides four flower arrangements. Please keep them simple. We appreciate it if they are left in the church for the following Sunday. We do not allow runners nor flower pedals to be drawn on the floor. Please remove any decorations on the pews, including the take, before leaving.

Donation:

The requested donation is \$800.00 for this private celebration. If you want to schedule a celebration we ask you for **a non-refundable donation of \$300.00**, and the rest should be paid three weeks later or one month before the ceremony. Donations are given by cashiers check, money order or cash, we do not accept personal checks. If you cancel the quinceañera, the parish will keep 50% of the donation of the \$800.00. If you need further information, please call the office (510)536-1266.

Before any arrangements are made it is required that you and the quinceañera read, understand and agree with all these requirements.

**The meaning of this celebration is:
To thank God for the gift of life.**

**Mother or father of Quinceañera
I agree with the above information.**

Date: _____